



City of Huntington Beach
Community Services Commission

HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, January 11, 2017
5:00 PM
Council Chambers
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Committee Members Present: Antonio Benitez; Albert Gasparian; Bridget Kaub;
Jay Kreitz (ex-officio)
Council Liaisons Present: Mayor Barbara Delgleize
Staff Present: Janeen Laudenback, David Dominguez;
Charlene Gomez

Committee Chair, Commissioner Kaub, called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

Laudenback provided a brief history on the development of the Committee saying that it was developed through an initial correspondence by a resident and observations by Commissioners of the issues in Central Park. She said that Committee will look at some of the problems and try to develop a priorities list. Laudenback said the issues with Central Park are also of high interest to the Mayor who has given direction to establish a task force to meet quarterly in conjunction with the Central Park Committee. The Committee meet on an as needed basis in between quarterly task force meetings and report back to the Council's Committee at the quarterly meetings. Dominguez added that the two groups will work together

Public Comments

Juana Mueller said she spoke to the Committee in December 2016 regarding the Shipley parking lot. She asked Committee to hold off and not approve the recommendations by staff. She feels more discussion is needed before a permanent lot is installed.

Steve Engel thanked Committee, Commission, and Staff for focusing on the issues Central Park.

Kay Goddard spoke regarding the permanent parking lot. She said the problem is that it's above Shipley. She feels that what is needed is a level access for those with disabilities and for children. She suggests access on the left side of the park where the ground is level.

Central Park Issues

Dominguez introduced Public Works staff, Director, Travis Hopkins and Maintenance Operations Manager, Denny Bacon for an update on Central Park maintenance projects. Hopkins said that they are working with the Police Department (PD) on the homeless situations in the park. He added that time is limited for maintenance due to weather and a small window before bird nesting begins.

Dominguez explained the challenges that PD has to work within in order to remove the homeless from the park. He also said that there are limits to the time PD can dedicate to the area. However, when the team room at the Sports Complex is completed in the middle of February, there will be a Community Services supervisor on site allowing for more oversight and hopes it will help to curb unwanted activities at the park.

Committee Chair Kaub said at the last meeting there was a discussion of a task force that would include the stakeholders and asked if this is still the plan or is the merging of the two committees. Dominguez responded yes and that stakeholders will be more involved at the less formal meeting. Then they will report back to Council.

Mayor Delgleize asked about the capacity of the supervisor that will be located at the team room. Laudenback said that he currently works at City Hall, but once the team room is complete he will be stationed in an office in the team room building. She also stated that typically when there is staff on site, they perform park patrols which provide increased oversight of park activities and issues. Staff can also act as a liaison with the police. Discussion continued on the role of staff and the task force.

Mayor Delgleize asked Laudenback about the big-picture for Committee. Laudenback said that it is an ad-hoc subcommittee, lead by Commissioner Kaub, who will meet with stakeholders as needed and then report to this Committee on a quarterly basis to discuss projects and updates. Discussion moved to budgets for the projects and what funds are available and for which Department for what type of projects. There are differences between maintenance and park improvement. Hopkins noted that there is a fine line between maintenance and park development and therefore, Public Works works closely with Community Services. He added that whenever there is a significant change in park uses, there may be a need to update the Central Park master plan, which would be subject to the public process.

Committee Comments

Mayor Delgleize said she wants to count on a revenue source long term.

Commissioner Gasparian feels it will take a while to iron everything out with regard to the permanent parking lot.

Commission Chair Kreitz thanked the Mayor for charging the cause.

Committee Chair Kaub said that at times, the process between Commission and Council can be a bit confusing and that it's nice to have the fact-to-face. She feels it will be an efficient method of working on this project. Chair Kaub also agrees with Gasparian about the parking lot.

Dominguez said Gomez will send out information on the next meeting when it is confirmed.

Committee Chair Kaub thanked everyone for attending and said she is looking forward to the process.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez
Secretary, Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary